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Editor's Introduction

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Editor's Introduction

Attentive readers will note yet another change of address for *Himalayan Research Bulletin*. This peripatetic journal, which moved from the Pacific Northwest to central Texas last year, has moved back again. Along with its editor, *HRB* left Austin, Texas (highest elevation Mt. Bunnell, a whopping 684 feet) for Portland Oregon--and the North Cascades, a reasonable Himalaya substitute--in December.

The *Bulletin* was revitalized at Texas through the strong institutional support of UT's Center for Asian Studies, its director Patrick Olivelle and his predecessor Richard Lariviere, with added help from the Department of Geography. Kamal Adhikary, *HRB*'s editorial associate and production manager at Texas, has been essential to that process. He continues to cope with the loose ends associated with our move, and will have mailed this issue from Austin before moving on to other pursuits. His help and moral support have been absolutely essential; *HRB* owes its recovery in large measure to his efforts.

More than the lure of mountains was required to woo *Himalayan Research Bulletin* from its warm new home in Texas to Portland State University. Here, too, the *Bulletin* finds itself with generous institutional support conferred by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and by the Department of Geography. For perhaps the first time *HRB* finds itself with its own office, its own computer and printer, as well as a part-time editorial assistant, geographer Charles Allen. We invite you to visit us in 424 Cramer Hall.

As *HRB* settles into its new home, we begin to take note of some of the costs of the move. Timeliness is one casualty. We are hoping that few readers have kept in mind our loose talk about a fall, 1994 publication date for Volume XIV. We had planned that this issue would at last return us to a publication schedule synchronous with the Gregorian calendar. We're a little behind, still hoping to catch up in time to make the first issue of volume fifteen before summer. Another casualty, one which will be too quickly apparent to too many of our readers, is consistency in the treatment of languages other than English (and perhaps even in the use of English). We left behind the University of Texas' wonderful linguistic resources, and have been forced to improvise a bit in preparing the final copy of articles, reviews, and abstracts, bereft of expert guidance and without, in several instances, the original documents--lost, somewhere, in the move. Anyone who has ever struggled to correct Sanskrit diacritics, with no training in that language, whose computer's "search and replace" function refuses to cooperate with alien fonts, who is subject to migraine, will understand something of what we've faced. Though aided by Edgar Gerow of Reed College, who contributed a font and some advice, and by old colleague Gregory Schopen, who corrected Tibetan italicization problems by phone, the task has proved too much. At this point, for this issue, we give up, and ask our readers for further tolerance in making sense of randomly corrected copy. Most important, we ask authors to forgive us. We'll do better next time, but if this issue is ever to hit the printer, we've had to cry "enough!"

Volume XIV continues in the eclectic tradition of *Himalayan Research Bulletin*. Offerings include a reprint of a famous and fascinating speech delivered in 1924 by Chandra Shumsher Jung Bahadur Rana, "An Appeal for the Abolition of Slavery," one of the treasures of the Regmi archives provided by Mahesh Regmi to Nanda Shrestha, who passed it on to us; a never-before published article by Todd Lewis, "Himalayan Religions in Comparative Perspective: Considerations Regarding Buddhism and Hinduism across their Indic Frontiers" (in the middle of which diacritics finally got the best of us--sorry, Todd); abstracts from two conferences, the 23rd Annual Conference on South Asia and the 11th Conference of the International Association of Buddhist Studies (another tricky one for the copy editors); several reports on research; and an extensive section devoted to new publications. We share news about news and information sources, electronic and conventional, and pass on information about Himalayan focused-programs and awards. In this issue we continue the sad task of remembering the contributions of

Himalayan scholars whose work has added so much to our common field, and mourn the passing of Stan Mumford, Dhanavajra Vajracarya, and Barry Bishop.

We refer you to the Secretary's Report of the Nepal Studies Association's Members' Meeting of November, 1994, for the most current information about the plans and enthusiasms of our organization. Reader-members are encouraged to submit contributions to the *Bulletin* including articles, offers to review books, conference and research information, suggestions for special issues--and offers to guest-edit such issues (deadline for copy: April 15th for issue one of Volume Fifteen, September 15th for issue two--that's 1995, please). We also seek new members, new ideas for the organization, and feedback of all sorts. We had hoped to introduce a "Letters to the Editor" section with this issue, but no one ever writes us. Consider this an invitation.

We have a new policy of unashamed dependency on others for the completion of the *Himalayan Research Bulletin*. The list of people and institutions to be thanked is especially long for this issue, because its production has been spread over many months, three states, and countless hands, heads, and computers:

At the University of Texas, thanks to the Center (now Department) for Asian Studies--its directors Richard Lariviere and Patrick Olivelle, member Greg Schopen, and its staff, particularly Karla Renaud. Librarian Merry Burlingham used her talents and resources to compile our list of recent publications. Kamal Adhikary on more than one occasion has saved the day (an example of his heroic effort in the cause of duty: a set of *HRBs* destined for the UT Library somehow was diverted to the recyclers, and our associate editor chased after them, hunting through a bin of tons of office paper in a vain attempt to find them before they were pulped). Dr. Adhikary would never have let this issue go to print with its diacritics in this state, had he had a chance to intervene.

Also at Texas, the Department of Geography provided an array of assistance in the form of financial and staff support. Thanks to Pam Garcia, Jac Erenkil, and chair Bill Doolittle. Ann Helgeson worked furiously to ready copy for the printer, and though we didn't quite make it, then, Volume XIV got a very good start thanks to her efforts. Students at Texas, knowing desperation when they saw it, pitched in with wonderful help. Thanks to Mark Bonta, David Baker, Jennifer Lueckemeyer, and especially Bob Shamus for hours of volunteer labor. Thanks, too, to anyone we've forgotten: those last days at Texas are something of a haze.

En route to Oregon the *Bulletin* stopped off in Berkeley, California, where for one optimistic moment it looked as if Volume XIV might be printed on the Geography Department's printers. That never happened, but thanks are due to the department for its willingness to help us out, and to Bernard Nietschmann for organizing the possibility, providing his essay on Barry Bishop, and intervening with the National Geographic Society--all by FAX from Costa Rica. The National Geographic very kindly provided the photograph of Barry Bishop and permission to use it--not once but twice, after the first print disappeared during the move.

At Portland State University *HRB* has been lucky again in finding generous support, official and impromptu. Once we master it, we will be thrilled with the Power Macintosh that now produces the *Bulletin*, and are grateful to Dean Marvin Kaiser for that and other generous help for *HRB* and its editor. We are once again beneficiaries of help from a Geography Department: chairs Dan Johnson and Martha Works, and especially department secretary Carolyn Perry are making the transition almost easy and painless. Charles Allen is our official help, but we have also benefited from the expertise of several other Geography students who wander into our new office and help us cope with electronic mysteries.

Perhaps the support of members of the board of the Nepal Studies Association should be taken for granted, but we would like to make special note of help from president Naomi Bishop, whose willingness to help shoulder *HRB*'s burdens never flags; from Todd Lewis, who not only in his capacity as Review Editor supplies us with book reviews, but also contributes a memorial, an article, conference reports, and the diacritics migraine to this issue; from John Metz, our Conferences Coordinator, who prepared information for the Conference Digest--and could use readers' help with expanding that section!

Contributing Editor Nirmal Tuladhar continues to keep us informed of meetings and other events in Kathmandu, and we depend on and very much appreciate his reliable help.

We invite readers to continue to make the *Bulletin* reflect their interests by providing us ideas and information. Specifically, please direct information about conferences, past and future, to John Metz; book-related queries to Todd Lewis; information about research to our new coordinator for News and Research, David Holmberg. Although your copy of this issue will be mailed from Texas, future correspondence should be directed to the Portland address on the Masthead.

Thanks, too, to our members for their continuing patience and support.

Note to Subscribers:

We will follow up the mailing of this issue with an invoice which will alert you to what our records indicate is your member status. In order to retain as many of the Nepal Studies Association's members as possible, we have continued to send recent issues of *HRB* to people on our mailing list whose memberships may not be up to date. Please help us to regain solvency and prune our list of those who have abandoned the Nepal Studies Association by responding promptly when you receive notification.

NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS:

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